

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

CHARLENE CHAPLIN,

Plaintiff,

-against-

GROSS POLOWY LLC, ET AL.,

Defendants.

25-CV-1161 (LTS)

ORDER DIRECTING IFP
APPLICATION AND SIGNATURE

LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN, Chief United States District Judge:

Plaintiff brings this action *pro se*. To proceed with a civil action in this Court, a plaintiff must either pay \$405.00 in fees – a \$350.00 filing fee plus a \$55.00 administrative fee – or, to request authorization to proceed without prepayment of fees, submit a signed application to proceed *in forma pauperis* (“IFP application”). *See* 28 U.S.C. §§ 1914, 1915. In addition, Rule 11(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides that “[e]very pleading, written motion, and other paper must be signed . . . by a party personally if the party is unrepresented.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 11(a); *see Becker v. Montgomery*, 532 U.S. 757, 764 (2001) (interpreting Rule 11(a) to require, “as it did in John Hancock’s day, a name handwritten (or a mark handplaced)”).¹

Plaintiff submitted her complaint without paying the fee or submitting a signed IFP application. In addition, the complaint that Plaintiff submitted is unsigned.²

¹ Although a “typed name” does not satisfy Rule 11(a)’s signature requirement, the Supreme Court affirmed the right of courts “by local rule [to] permit papers to be filed, signed, or verified by electronic means.” *Becker*, 532 U.S. at 764. Under this court’s local rules, where a document is filed in accordance with the SDNY Electronic Case Filing (“ECF”) Rules & Instructions (“ECF Rules”), the filing complies with the local rules. *See* Local Civil Rule 5.2. Rule 1.1 and Appendix C of the ECF Rules authorize self-represented parties to sign documents submitted to the court by email using an electronic signature or typed name with /s.

² In addition, Plaintiff lists her complete Social Security number on her complaint. Under Rule 5.2 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, when a person’s Social Security number or financial account is mentioned in a court submission, they can only be referred to by their last

Accordingly, within 30 days from the date of this order, Plaintiff must: (1) either pay the \$405.00 in fees or submit a completed and signed IFP application; and (2) sign and submit the attached signature page. If Plaintiff returns the signed documents by mail or in person, they must have a handwritten signature that complies with Rule 11(a). If Plaintiff submits the documents by email, to ProSe@nysd.uscourts.gov, Plaintiff may use instead an electronic signature or a typed name with /s/ (“/s/ Jane Doe”) on the signature line. The signed documents must be labeled with the docket number 25-CV-1161 (LTS).

No summons or answer shall issue at this time. If Plaintiff complies with this order, the case shall be processed in accordance with the procedures of the Clerk’s Office. If Plaintiff fails to comply with this order within the time allowed, the action will be dismissed without prejudice.

The Court certifies under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3) that any appeal from this order would not be taken in good faith, and therefore IFP status is denied for the purpose of an appeal. *Cf. Coppedge v. United States*, 369 U.S. 438, 444–45 (1962) (holding that appellant demonstrates good faith when seeking review of a nonfrivolous issue).

SO ORDERED.

Dated: February 11, 2025
New York, New York

/s/ Laura Taylor Swain

LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN
Chief United States District Judge

four digits. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 5.2(a)(1), (4). As a precaution, the Clerk of Court has placed Plaintiff’s complaint in a “party-view only” status on the Court’s CM/ECF database, so that this information is not widely available via the internet. The Court directs Plaintiff to not include any references to her Social Security number in any future filings in this action.